

## **CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

18 November 2010

Utah State Library, 250 North 1950 West, SLC, Rooms 218 & 219  
Salt Lake City, Utah

---

**Members Present:** Dale Smith, Ed Dieringer, David Rothschild, Carol Thompson, Pat Marino, Diane Wilkinson, Leslie Hjorth, Joni Hemond, Michael Libeck and Jodie Jensen

**Members Excused:** Heidi Radeke, Julie Shakib and Carolyn Miller

**Department of Health and Child Care Licensing Staff Present:** Teresa Whiting, Simon Bolivar, Karrie Phillips, Colleen Murphy, Donna Thomas, Joyce Hasting and Joan Isom

---

### **WELCOME**

Mr. Smith began the meeting at 9:40 am. The minutes from the last Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee meeting on September 9, 2010 were approved by the committee on October 20, 2010 and are posted on the Child Care Licensing website at:  
[www.health.utah.gov/licensing](http://www.health.utah.gov/licensing).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Update on Revisions to Home Provider Rules**

Ms. Whiting reported that the home provider rules were approved and the effective date for the new rules will be January 1, 2011. Karrie has sent a postcard to all in-home providers for the dates and times of the trainings on the new rules and the interpretation manual.

#### **Report on Trial Usage of Proposed New Formula for Mixed Age Group for Proposed Center Rule Revisions Used by Center Providers on Advisory Committee**

The advisory committee members who used the proposed formula for mixed aged groups gave their feedback.

Mr. Smith took the formula tool that Ms. Whiting sent out to the center committee members to use to help estimate the ratio of mixed age groups for supervision purposes. Mr. Smith found the tool to be useful and accurate in estimating the numbers in the age groups.

Mr. Dieringer found it to be an effective tool, but Mr. Dieringer's staff did not find it an easy tool to use for measuring.

Mr. Marino expressed concern that there were times when the chart resulted in more

stringent mixed-age ratios that the current formula.

Ms. Thompson did use the spreadsheet, but doesn't feel the center really got a good feel for the formula. The teachers always reverted back to the individual child and what that child's needs are for the classroom the child was in. Ms. Thompson's center feels more comfortable looking at the needs of the children first and not at ratios. Ms. Thompson's center normally has a higher staff to child ratio at all times.

Mr. Rothschild stated that his center's experience was like Mr. Dieringer's center. Staff found it difficult to use. Mr. Rothschild suggested that Child Care Licensing could create a table that showed the different possible combinations to help with what Mr. Marino found at his center, then staff could refer to a chart to help with the staff to mixed age group ratios..

Ms. Whiting stated that Child Care Licensing could create possible age combinations for a chart to bring back for a trial usage by the Advisory Committee members.

Dr. Hemond could see how this formula could be difficult for staff to use with children coming and going in many centers throughout the day.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Marino what combinations did not work for his center using the formula and requested that he jot those down to send to Child Care Licensing to help them with the creating of a mixed age group combination chart. Mr. Smith suggested he would like to see some concrete examples from the formula on a laptop at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

### **Recommendations for QRIS and Provider Eligibility**

Ms. Whiting stated that at the last advisory committee meeting the advisory committee agreed that a facility would be eligible for QRIS as long as they did not have any level one cited findings, civil money penalties, or were on a conditional license. The question still to be addressed is how long such issues would make a program ineligible to participate.

Mr. Smith inquired as to what other states do for a QRIS system and asked Mr. Matherly from the Office of Child Care to give an update on QRIS.

Mr. Matherly from the Office of Child Care stated that there are states that do have a quality rating system in place or they are working on having a system in place, with most referring to the system as the Quality Rating and Improvement System. The QRIS levels in most states are similar to the star systems that hotel and restaurants have. Mr. Matherly stated that the OCC is doing complete research on other states to see what is working and what is not working for them and reporting back to the QRIS Steering Committee.

Mr. Matherly presented the update from the Utah QRIS Steering Committee as of October 2010 as follows:

The QRIS Steering Committee is ready to discuss the Health and Safety Indicator and how it relates to substantial licensing compliance. It is proposed that the Health and Safety Indicator is earned by achieving substantial licensing compliance. Substantial licensing compliance is defined as: the absence of level one cited findings, civil money penalties and/or the issuance of a conditional license. The Health and Safety Indicator must be earned and consistently maintained before any other indicators can be displayed. Many states have a “Licensing Plus One” QRIS level and this would be a version of that concept. We hope that verification of this indicator becomes an automated database function, with the Licensing database and the CCR&R QRIS database communicating to each other.

Mr. Rothschild stated that he sees a new provider that would have to wait a year to be on the system as a real structural barrier to their business. Mr. Rothschild would like the QRIS Steering Committee to review the criteria for a new licensed facility.

Mr. Marino stated that states that have been studied do have low participation rates possibly because their systems are so disciplinary motivated. We want to have a system that motivates facilities and providers to participate.

Ms. Wilkinson stated that if the state issues a finding for something that can be fixed right away and is; then the facility should not be taken off of the system. If there is a finding that is fixed at the next inspection then the facility should be on the system because now everything is fixed.

Mr. Marino inquired about someone who comes in and buys an existing center that has shown substantial non-compliance and how that could adversely affect the new owner. Ms. Whiting stated that a center that is under new ownership is a new licensed facility with the state and the old center’s record does not transfer to the new licensed facility.

Ms. Hjorth stated that if a finding for non-compliance is corrected and there is another finding it shouldn’t keep the provider off of the system since the original finding was corrected. Now if licensing goes out again and there are findings that are not corrected then it shows non-compliance. Dr. Hemond replied that correcting findings of noncompliance is the minimum requirement to keep a child care license, and the QRIS system seems to be intended for providers who go above and beyond basic requirements of just correcting findings in order to keep a license.

Ms. Whiting commented that one intention in implementing a voluntary QRIS system is to provide motivation to improve quality and meet a higher standard than just having a license. Mr. Dieringer stated that a facility that can not maintain compliance would appear to not to want to reach the next level or has chosen to not be working for a higher rating.

Mr. Libeck stated that QRIS needs to make sure that this system is promoted to parents so that the system will be accessed by parents to find quality child care for their children.

These should be facilities that want to go beyond just having a license and are willing to work hard to maintain their eligibility on the system.

Mr. Smith stated that at this time the Advisory Committee doesn't have all the information it needs to make an informative recommendation to the CCR&R QRIS Steering Committee. Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Whiting for the work Child Care Licensing will do to put together recommendations for review by the Advisory Committee on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rothschild made a motion that this recommendation be brought back to the next Advisory Committee meeting and Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Dates for Statewide Provider Trainings on Interpretation Manual and Rule Updates**

Ms. Phillips, Home Provider Training Specialist for Child Care Licensing, reported that Child Care Licensing will be offering free training to in-home providers on the rule changes and Interpretation Manual updates that are effective January 1, 2011. A postcard will be sent to all in-home providers next week with this training information.

Ms. Hasting, Center Training Specialist for Child Care Licensing, reported that a postcard for the Interpretation Manual trainings will be sent as soon as locations are definite. Ms. Hasting also reported that starting in January 2011 the center trainings will be more consolidated. We have centers that have offered to be available for staff from other centers to come to their center for trainings.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Matherly, Office of Child Care, stated that there is a link for QRIS information that he will have forwarded to the Advisory Committee. The CCR&R QRIS Steering Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month from 1:00 – 3:00 at 1385 South State Street.

The next Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee meeting will be on January 13, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cannon Health Building, located at 288 North 1460 West, Salt Lake City in room 125.

The meeting was adjourned.